



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## Sixteenth Annual MARFIN Conference

The Sixteenth Annual Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) Conference is scheduled for December 1-2, 2004, at the Wyndham New Orleans at Canal Place, 10 Rue Iberville, New Orleans. The conference will start at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday and at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday and will end at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Thursday. The public is invited to attend.

Speakers will discuss results of research on aging of Gulf reef fish, essential fish habitat for Goliath grouper and the use of lipofuscin for aging Caribbean spiny lobster on Wednesday morning. The afternoon session will start with a report on the stock structure of red porgy in the North Atlantic followed by a report on recruitment indices for shallow water grouper. Bycatch studies, including the use of BRDs and TEDs, and a study involving industry information on fishing effort and bycatch reduction in the shrimp fishery will be discussed on Wednesday afternoon.

Presentations on Thursday morning will concentrate on the Gulf red snapper fishery, which is an important commercial and recreational species.

Topics will include behavior and swimming performance of red snapper, genetic impacts of shrimp trawling on Gulf red snapper, an assessment of bathymetric highs as nursery habitat for newly settled red snapper, age and size composition of red snapper in the hook-and-line commercial fishery, the use of stable isotopes as tracers of patterns in habitat utilization by juvenile red snapper, and an assessment of the effectiveness of minimum size limits for red snapper.

On Thursday afternoon, presentations will include an economic analysis of fleet dynamics in the Gulf of Mexico grouper fishery, the use of bottom longline gear to develop indices of abundance of adult red drum in South Carolina, a genetic analysis of wahoo stock structure, and a GIS analysis of fishery-dependent data in relation to definition of essential fish habitat and marine protected areas in the South Atlantic Bight.

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